

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A welding torch device of a welding robot, which is provided for electric arc welding or ~~and in particular~~ MIG or MAG welding, whereby the welding robot has a robot arm, on which is provided a connection device which can be rotated in relation to the robot arm, the device comprising:

5 a fixing device for attaching the welding torch device to the welding robot[[,]] ;

a receiving device for holding a welding torch and for transferring driven rotatory motions to the welding torch[[,]] ;

an electrical connection for a welding power cable, by means of which a robot side of the welding torch device can be electrically connected to a welding power source[[,]] ;

10 a current transfer device, via which the welding power cable can be electrically connected to a welding torch side of the welding torch device, wherein the current transfer device has a stator, which is provided for the rotationally fixed arrangement in relation to the robot arm, but can be rotated in relation to the connection device on the welding robot side[[,]];

15 a leadthrough (14) of the stator, through which ~~at least one of the expendable supplies~~ supply material required for the welding process can be guided in the direction of the receiving device (10), wherein the receiving device (10) and the fixing device (9) are embodied as rotors, which, as a result, can be rotated in relation to the stator, and the receiving device (10) and/or the fixing device (9) can be connected to the stator in an electrically conductive manner by means of an electric contact means (25); ~~characterized by~~ ₁ the fixing device (9) of the rotor; ~~which is being~~ designed for attaching to the connection device of the robot, whereby, by means

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of the attaching to the connection device of the robot, a rotational axis of the rotor is at least essentially aligned with the rotational axis (8) of the connection device of the robot and the rotor can be rotated about the rotational axis (8) as well as about the stator.

2. (Currently Amended) A welding torch device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that wherein a longitudinal axis (16) of the leadthrough is aligned with the rotational axis (8) of the connection device.

3. (Currently Amended) A welding torch device in accordance with ~~in accordance with~~ [sic - Tr.Ed.] one of the two preceding claims claim 1 or 2, characterized in that wherein the stator has a rotationally fixed electric connection for the welding cable, through which the rotational axis of the connection device runs.

4. (Currently Amended) A welding torch device in accordance with ~~at least one of the preceding claims claim 1~~, characterized in that further comprising: a lead through of the receiving device for welding wire ~~the receiving device (10) for the welding torch (11) is likewise provided with a leadthrough for the welding wire~~, whereby the leadthrough (14) of the stator and the leadthrough of the receiving device (10) run at least essentially coaxially to one another.

5. (Currently Amended) A welding torch device in accordance with ~~one or more of the preceding claims claim 1~~, characterized in that wherein a longitudinal axis (16) of a recess (15)

of the leadthrough (14) of the stator runs at least essentially coaxially to the rotational axis (8) of the rotatory motion of the connection flange on the robot side.

6. (Currently Amended) A welding torch device in accordance with ~~one or more of the preceding claims claim 1, characterized in that wherein~~ a common rotational axis of the fixing device (9) and of the receiving device (10) runs coaxially to a longitudinal axis (16) of the leadthrough (14) of the stator.

7. (Currently Amended) A welding torch device in accordance with ~~one or more of the preceding claims claim 1, characterized by further comprising~~ insulating medium, which electrically insulates the fixing device from the stator, whereby the stator and the receiving device (10) are connected to one another in an electrically conductive manner by means of a stator to receiving device contact means (24).

8. (Currently Amended) A welding torch device in accordance with ~~one or more of the preceding claims claim 7, characterized in that wherein the~~ stator to receiving device contact means (24) has elements, which are rotated together with the rotor about an axis, whereby the rotational axis of these elements are aligned with the rotational axis (8) of the connection device of the robot.

9. (Currently Amended) A welding torch device in accordance with claim 7 or 8,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the contact means (24) is embodied as a sliding contact means.

10. (Currently Amended) A welding torch device in accordance with claim 9, ~~characterized by at least one~~ further comprising a force means, with which at least one said sliding contact element (28) of the sliding contact means can be pressed against a contact partner.

11. (Currently Amended) A welding torch device in accordance with claim 10, ~~characterized by at least~~ two force means, with which the at least one sliding contact element (28) can be pressed against contact partners in the axial and radial directions in relation to the axis of the rotatory motion.

12. (Currently Amended) A welding torch device in accordance with claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the force means are springy, and the at least one sliding contact element (28) can be pressed against both a first contact partner radially surrounding the leadthrough (14) and a second contact partner axially offset to the sliding contact element (28).

13. (Currently Amended) A welding torch device in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims 7 through 12,~~ claim 9, further comprising: a bell-shaped section (23) of the stator, in which the sliding contact means is arranged.

14. (Currently Amended) A welding torch device in accordance with ~~one or more of the preceding claims claim 1, characterized by further comprising:~~ insulating medium, by means of which the fixing device (9) can be electrically insulated against the current transfer device.

15. (Currently Amended) A welding torch device in accordance with ~~one or more of the preceding claims claim 1, characterized in that wherein~~ the leadthrough (14) is provided with a recess (15), through which both the welding wire (20) and inert gas can be fed to the welding torch (11) as the expendable supply material.

16. (Currently Amended) A welding torch device in accordance with claim 15, wherein the electric connection for the welding power cable is part of a wall defining the recess (15).

17. (Canceled)

18. (New) A welding robot for welding workpieces, comprising:

a folding arm robot provided with a connection flange; and

a welding torch device connected to said flange, said welding device comprising a fixing device for attaching the welding torch device to the welding robot, a receiving device for holding a welding torch and for transferring driven rotatory motions to the welding torch, an electrical connection for a welding power cable, by means of which a robot side of the welding torch device can be electrically connected to a welding power source, a current transfer device,

via which the welding power cable can be electrically connected to a welding torch side of the welding torch device, wherein the current transfer device has a stator, which is provided for the rotationally fixed arrangement in relation to the robot arm, but can be rotated in relation to the connection device on the welding robot side, a leadthrough of the stator, through which expendable supply material required for the welding process can be guided in the direction of the receiving device, wherein the receiving device and the fixing device are embodied as rotors, which, as a result, can be rotated in relation to the stator, and the receiving device and/or the fixing device can be connected to the stator in an electrically conductive manner by means of an electric contact means, the fixing device of the rotor, being designed for attaching to the connection device of the robot, whereby, by means of the attaching to the connection device of the robot, a rotational axis of the rotor is at least essentially aligned with the rotational axis of the connection device of the robot and the rotor can be rotated about the rotational axis as well as about the stator.